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4_9_13 Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 @ 7:00 PM

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:10 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Don Vitters, and Jen Rothenberg. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly. Jim Robillard was not in attendance.

Members of the public included: Paul Cahill, Richard Flynn and Paul Carroll

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

No public comments.

Arlington Youth Baseball/Softball Proposals – Buck Field

Richard Flynn and Paul Carroll from Arlington Youth Baseball/Softball presented a Buck Field Construction/Maintenance Plan.

- Outfield Protective Netting – Sacca submitted a price of \$5,000. Mr. Connelly will check with Heimlich, who is currently doing Summer Street, to get pricing and have the work completed.
- Right Field Warm Up Area – Paul Carroll will come back with some sketches and will present them for approval. The area will be enclosed to protect people in the stands, as well as protect the players from play on the field. They will look into how to make it less attractive for climbing on.
- Scoreboard Installation – Paul Carroll will come back with details and a physical picture of the scoreboard for approval.
- Landscaping – They still intend on developing a landscaping plan, which will be presented at a later date.
- Field Maintenance Plan – The field needs additional maintenance. A quotation from Courtney Landscaping was presented which includes a spring cleanup, monthly maintenance, edging and a fall cleanup. Town Counsel and DPW would both need to sign off on this plan, and it cannot interfere with any planned Town work on the field. Mr. Connelly will work with Youth Baseball, Town Counsel and DPW. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve a pilot program, Ms. Canniff seconded, approved 4-0.

Batting Cages – Summer Street Field and Spy Pond Field

Chris Hall sent in a request to put in batting cages at Summer Street Field. Possible locations he mentioned were right field corner, left field corner and center field. The Commission all agreed there is no good location at this field for a batting cage.

Paul Cahill is requesting a batting cage be put in at Spy Pond Field. The batting cage will be the same style as the cages at Poets and would be located along the bikepath side of the field. He would like to have it up in April and removed the first week of July.

Paul Cahill said he would take care of any damage that may occur. The Commission agreed to do a pilot program. Ms.

Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Caniff and approved 4-0.

Park Ranger Concept

Mr. Connelly put together a job description for a Park Ranger position. \$25,000 would be needed to fund a rotation of part-time positions. A funding source would need to be presented to Personnel and the Town Manager. The program would have to be fee generated or ask the Friends of Parks to do some fundraising. Fundraising should take place Fall/Winter. Mr. Connelly will do some background work. This could possibly be a one year pilot program.

Standardized Park Signs and Banner Policy

Mr. Connelly printed out some banner policies from other towns. Banners can announce an event for town-wide purpose run by a town organization. Mr. Connelly will find out about banners at Town Hall. Decisions on size of banner, duration and locations should be developed.

Mr. Connelly printed out some park rules for use in discussion, and Ms. Mayer referred the Commission to the Article 7 Zoning by law on signs. Mr. Connelly will put together some draft rules, and Mr. Vitters will look at some ideas for future discussion.

Warrant Article #20 Update

Warrant Article #20, Spy Pond land transfer has been withdrawn by the proponent.

CDBG Status - No change.

Capital Improvement Update

Florence Avenue Playground – Out to bid. Bids will be opened up in two weeks.

Poets Corner Master Plan – Mr. Connelly stated that this project would need to be included in the town wide master plan. Mr. Connelly will look into DPW taking down the unsightly fence around the abandoned tennis courts.

Capital Request for FY 2014 – No update.

Off-Leash Dog Review

- Ellen Reed – MRP abutter, Ellen Reed, sent another email regarding Lucy the dog trespassing off-leash in her yard. Based on a meeting with Capt. Curran and Officer Smith, APD will reach out to Ellen Reed and Lucy's owner to discuss options for action, since this is a private property issue.
- Ashley Williams – Ms. Williams stressed her concern about young children being in the OLRA. Mr. Connelly will look at rules from other towns to see if there are any age limits on children allowed in fenced areas. Mr. Connelly will also get input from Town Counsel.

Special Requests

- Softball Tournament – August 2nd through August 4th. Arlington High softball parents are requesting Peirce, Buzzell and Bishop Fields for the 15th Annual Tanner Pride Softball Summer Classic Tournament. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0.
- Friends of Robbins Event Requests 2013 – Ms. Canniff motioned to approve with the usual requirements and restrictions, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Rink and Recreation Update

- Rink – The Shoot for the Cure was successful. The rink will close for the season at the end of April Vacation. Belmont Hill is

selling sports flooring storage trailer for \$500 (a \$10,000 total investment).

- Recreation – The egg hunt was successful. A new pre-school program will begin in the fall for ages 2.9 to 5, which will be held at the Gibbs Gym.

Committee Updates:

Portable Restrooms – Portable restrooms were delivered today.

Friends of Parks – A Friends meeting was held. It was a very good meeting with representatives from Menotomy, Robbins Farm and Spy Pond all present. Fundraising, punch lists, expectations and toy policies were discussed.

Skateboard Park – N/A

Mill Brook Linear Park – N/A

Other Business

The Commission discussed meeting twice per month, during busy seasons, and asked Mr. Connelly to present suggestions for Commission liaison positions at the next meeting.

Ms. Canniff motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation